

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 AID-05 /051 W
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R 211838Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9431
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, SP
SUBJECT: ICFTU ADDRESSES COMPLAINT TO ILO REGARDING NEW SPANISH
LABOR DECREE

1. THE MADRID PRESS OF MARCH 19 CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF A UGT-
INSPIRED LETTER FROM THE ICFTU TO ILO SEC GEN BLANCHARD,
DIRECTING A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE GOS FOR "VIOLATION OF
THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF THE ILO WITH RESPECT TO TRADE
UNION FREEDOM AND THE EXERCISE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS,
PARTICULARLY THE RIGHT TO STRIKE." THE ICFTU MESSAGE
SPECIFICALLY DENOUNCES THE RECENT LABOR DECREE PUBLISHED
IN THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN ON MARCH 9 (MADRID 1715).

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2. THE TEXT NOTES THAT WHILE THE DECREE RECOGNIZES THE
PRINCIPLE OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, "IT LIMITS, RESTRICTS,
AND EVEN ANNULS SUCH RIGHT IN ITS ARTICLES." PROVISIONS
ARE ESTABLISHED "WHICH LEAVE TO THE DISCRETIONAL
INTERPRETATION OF GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY THE LEGALITY OR
ILLEGALITY OF ALL STRIKES." THE ICFTU ALSO CHARGED THAT
PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO THE REGISTRATION AND CONFIRMATION

OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS AND THEIR APPROVAL BY THE GOVT ARE MAINTAINED, CONTRARY TO CONVENTION 98 OF THE ILO. FINALLY, THE ICFTU LETTER STATES THAT "THE DECREE SUBORDINATES EMPLOYMENTS STABILITY TO THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, WITH GRAVE CONSEQUENCES TO THOSE RIGHTS OBTAINED BY THE WORKER AND CONSIDERABLE DETERIORATION OF NORMAL LABOR RELATIONS."

3. ALTHOUGH MINISTER OF LABOR RENGIFO HAD JUSTIFICATION IN TELLING US RECENTLY THAT LABOR'S COMPLAINT'S ABOUT THE NEW DECREE WERE "POLITICALLY MOTIVATED", (MADRID 2029) THAT TELLS ONLY HALF THE STORY. THE REAL PROBLEM - ASIDE FROM SOME VERY LEGITIMATE COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE NEW DECREE FROM BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT - CENTERS ON THE GROWING FRUSTRATION ON THE UGT (AS WELL AS THE OTHER "ILLEGAL" UNIONS) WITH RESPECT TO THE LEGALIZATION ISSUE. POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN HALF-LEGAL FOR MONTHS, AND ARE NOW COMPLETELY LEGAL. IN CONTRAST, THE TRADE UNION LEGALIZATION BILL HAS BEEN STUCK IN THE CORTES FOR WELL OVER TWO MONTHS (SINCE JANUARY 11). UNTIL UNIONS ARE LEGALIZED, EVEN THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR UNIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LIFE TOUGH FOR THE GOS.EATON

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Message Attributes

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